

DOMESTIC VIRTUES APPEAL TO A MAN

Average Mortal Usually
Uses Term in Describing
His Ideal.

DOES NOT COMPRISE ALL THAT IS NEEDED

Wife Is Rarely Selected for Her
Traits of Character.

The average man, in describing his ideal woman, almost always declares that she must be endowed, first of all, with the "domestic virtues."

Asked to describe these, he grows vague and misty of ideas, and mutters something about his mother.

As a matter of fact, of course, no man selects his wife for her traits of character, but rather for some other reason, the eyebrows or some wave of the hair which commends itself to him as attractive. Then, after he has chosen in this enlightened and far-seeing fashion, he expects her to be endowed with the disposition of a saint and the house-keeping ability of a maid.

"Domestic virtues" is a term which may mean anything when it is used by a man. It may mean that he expects to be able to find the hammer when he wishes it, or that his dinner must be ready whenever he comes home, or that at 5:30 or at 7:30, and always hot, and never spoiled.

"Domestic virtues" in a woman, usually mean to a man a modest, retiring disposition, gay when he feels like being gay or subdued when he feels that he prefers to be quiet. It means that she must prefer his society to all others, even if she is only permitted to sit in the room with him, but not to address him on pain of disaster.

Once I knew a very amiable lady who had in a large measure the domestic virtues. She was wooed and won for these by a clever man, who said to an intimate friend that he preferred a woman not to be too intellectual.

Intellectuality, he said, was the prerogative of man, and he wanted no rivals in his own household; he wanted as a wife a womanly woman who would see that things were kept in order, and whose chief literature would be Mrs. Somebody-or-Other's cook book.

An Attentive Wife.

And, as I have said, he married her, and his home was very comfortable, and there was no poor cup of coffee. More than that, the curtains were laundered at regular intervals, and the rings of the chairs were eternally dusted, which sounds like a fairy tale, but is quite true. She was an attentive wife, this Martha, and stayed at the house, the evenings as becomes a good and faithful helpmate, and crocheted table mats.

Then the exigencies of public life placed the man in a position of prominence, where his wife had to mingle with women of the world and had to entertain, where, in fact, she was utterly out of place and at a very great disadvantage.

Now, it availed her nothing that she could recite whole pages of recipes from Mrs. Somebody-or-Other's cook book, and she knew exactly when a soufflé was done, and her husband was very indignant that she knew so little of the works of Schopenhauer and Bernard Shaw and W. J. Bryan. He said that what he really liked in woman was not so much the "domestic virtues" as it was, as versatility and general knowledge of the world, which ungrateful observation very naturally hurt the feelings of this model spouse.

But it was too late for her to learn to shine in society, and she had the mortification of seeing her better half languish on the conversation of a woman who hadn't a domestic virtue in her whole moral trousseau, and who didn't know a frying pan from a turkey roaster.

For Misguided Wives.

Which horrible example might be put in a religious tract and distributed for the warning of misguided wives who are satisfied if they please their husbands, though they offend all the world besides. The domestic virtues are all right, of course, but chiefly so when they are bounded by a knowledge of music and French, an acquaintance with polite literature, and the ability to indulge in airy persiflage.

There is another husband who the other day regarded his wife sadly. "I am afraid, my dear Amelia, that I have been deceived in you," said he. "When I married you I believed you to be a woman of solidity of character—one to whom the home was sacred and above all else. And yet twice this week have I returned from my office in great need of your sympathy, only to find you, too, had gone out. I fear, my dear, you have become a butterfly of fashion. Certainly you should arrange to be here when I come in."

Which pronouncement settled the matter, and the husband shortly thereafter went to his club.

If it is objected by the skeptic that there never was such a husband, or that at least there has not been such a one since the first century, you are wrong. I must mildly but firmly insist that I know him, and also that I know several patients, friends, who at this moment belong to the club, not even given over to enlightening considerations of "bridge," because of their husbands' ideas concerning what is right and fitting for wives to do.

Young girls whose thoughts are on matrimony here would be well, in my opinion, therefore, to care for their complexions and for the domestic virtues with about equal solicitude. But they should not allow their affection for the latter to interfere with the cultivation of those graces which a man, which, after all, are most seen of men, and at certain times most appreciated by them.

LEONORE CALVERT

DIPHTHERIA DIVIDES CAT FAMILY ET AL.

Man and Wife Separated by Quarantine, But Worse.
Twenty-one Happy Felines Are Disrupted
Into Two Camps.

CHICAGO, Feb. 21.—A happy family, consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Warren E. Colburn, one maid, and twenty-one cats, is temporarily disrupted into two branches, composed of those who are in the house at 7306 Bond avenue, and wish to get out, and those who are out of the house and wish to get in.

The cause of the severance is proclaimed by a yellow sign on the house. It reads: "Diphtheria."

The chief victim is the maid, who is ill. Next come Mr. Colburn and nine of the cats, who do not dare to go home. In the house with the maid are Mrs. Colburn, twelve cats, and one dressmaker, who came for a day, and has been there a week, with no release in sight.

The principal objects of the mistress' anxiety are her twelve blooded cats, and as a preventive measure against contagion, she has them under the absent treatment of a faith healer.

For herself she does not fear, but cats are among the animals that can take this particular sickness from man, and to Mrs. Colburn her fine pets are almost as dear as if they were human.

Mr. Colburn today applied to Dr. W. A. Evans, of the board of health, for permission to go home, and to ask for a re-examination of the maid. He also wishes to obtain an order for the release of the dressmaker. Only the cats, according to his wishes, will remain under surveillance.

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